

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-74 were pending in the present application before the amendment as set forth above. By this amendment, as set forth above, claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9-12, 14-27, 29-32, and 35 are amended and claims 36-74 are withdrawn.

In the July 24, 2007 Office Communication, the Examiner indicated that restriction to one of the following inventions was required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372:

Group I: Claims 1-35, drawn to a process for the production of hollow fibers.

Group II: Claims 36 and 37, drawn to porous materials.

Group III: Claims 38-53, drawn to hollow fibers.

Group IV: Claims 54-66, drawn to arrays of hollow fibers.

Group V: Claim 67, drawn to powders.

Group VI: Claims 68-70, drawn to the use of hollow fibers.

Group VII: Claims 71 and 72, drawn to the use of porous materials.

Group VIII: Claims 73 and 74, drawn to the use of arrays of hollow fibers.

Applicants through their attorney on the record and identified below appreciate very much the Examiner's preliminary review of the instant application.

In response, as set forth above, claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9-12, 14-27, 29-32, and 35 have been amended to correct typos and informalities.

Without acquiescing to the statements made therein and to facilitate the prosecution of the instant application, Applicants hereby elect without traverse the claims of Group I, claims 1-35, for prosecution in the instant application.

Additionally, claims 36-74, corresponding to Groups II-VIII, have been withdrawn in response to the Restriction Requirement. Applicants believe the subject matter defined by the withdrawn claims are patentably and hence reserve every right in withdrawn claims 36-74 to file divisional applications.

Support for the amendment set forth above can be found in the claims and the disclosure as originally filed. Applicants assert that no new matter is added.

Any amendments to the claims not specifically referred to herein as being included for the purpose of distinguishing the claims from cited references are included for the purpose of

clarification, consistence and/or grammatical correction only.

Examination on the merits is therefore respectfully requested and this Application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this Response or the Application in general, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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